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URBAN DISTRICT OF  
HEBDEN ROYD.

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# Annual Report

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND  
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE  
Year Ending December 31st, 1937.

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Presented June, 1938.

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1938.

*Kershaw & Ashworth Limited.*

*Hebden Bridge:*





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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health.

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Holme House, Hebden Bridge,

June, 1938.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council.**

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report for the Urban District of Hebden Royd for the year ending 1937.

The Urban District of Hebden Royd was formed April 1st, 1937, by the amalgamation of the neighbouring Urban Districts of Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. The new district comprises an area of 7,184 acres of narrow valleys surrounded by steep hills, and two towns, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. The Rivers Calder and Hebden flow through both towns. The inhabitants belong principally to the working-classes, the chief industry of the district being the wholesale clothing trade. The district though largely industrial is partly agricultural, and the principal big industries are woollen and cotton trades, timber works, poultry-rearing, and farming. I believe I am correct in saying the district contains the largest poultry-rearing industry in the United Kingdom.

The estimated population of the newly combined areas for mid-year 1937 is 10,500. At the end of 1937 there were 3,703 inhabited houses in the district, according to the Rate Books.

The Rateable value is £65,582, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £251 nett.

## STATISTICS: UNEMPLOYMENT, YEAR 1937.

Concerning unemployment, unfortunately separate figures are not recorded for the areas of Hebden Royd and the neighbouring Todmorden Rural District, but the total insured population (which means persons who are working in trades outside Agriculture and Domestic Services, and excluding persons in business on own account, etc.) of the whole district, approximately for 1937 was 6,780.

The following information has been kindly given to me by the Manager of the Hebden Bridge Employment Exchange, whose area is representative of Hebden Royd, and also includes the neighbouring district of the Todmorden Rural District Council.

The figures down for each month of the Wholly Unemployed and Temporarily Suspended (short-timers) are:

Month.

1937 W.U. T.S. Total

Jan.	291	164	455	Decrease due to better weather conditions and better trade in Wholesale Clothing.
Feb.	275	157	432	The slight decrease is due to better working in all trades.
Mar.	171	96	267	Decrease due to improvement in all trades.
Apr.	254	173	427	The increase on last month is due to reorganisation of a Cotton Firm.
May	248	307	555	Increase due to slackness in trade with several smaller firms in Wholesale Clothing.
June	231	431	662	Increase due to slackness in Wholesale Clothing.
July	232	820	1052	Increase due to slackness in Wholesale Clothing, also Woollen Trade shows an increase in employment.
Aug.	248	962	1210	A further decrease in unemployment in Wholesale Clothing, also Cotton Weaving, Woollen Blankets, and Public Works are slightly affected.
Sep.	276	788	1064	Decrease due to better trade in Wholesale Clothing, little change in any other trade.

Oct.	295	718	1013	A slight decrease due to one or two smaller firms in the Wholesale Clothing resuming full time employment.
Nov.	296	918	1214	Increase due to Wholesale Clothing trade, several firms being on short time.
Dec.	238	1133	1371	A further increase due to Wholesale Clothing trade being very slack.

Unemployment during the first half of 1937 may be considered as normal for Hebden Bridge. Small variations between trades did occur, but up to the middle of June trade generally was very good and particularly in Wholesale Clothing and Engineering.

After the July holidays there was a sudden decline in trade in the Wholesale Clothing Industry, which to the end of the year did not improve. The increase in the figures relate to Temporarily Suspended Workers, and women and girls are mostly affected. The highest total last year was reached in August, when the register was 725.

The totally unemployed figures have not varied to any appreciable extent.

The figures are taken from the Statistical Returns prepared about the middle of each month (on a Monday) and may vary considerably during other weeks.

The area of this Exchange includes Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Charlestown, Heptonstall, Erringden, Blackshaw and Wadsworth. Now that Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge are merged into Hebden Royd, I should estimate that 75% of the figures refer to Hebden Royd, Heptonstall, Blackshaw 15% and Wadsworth 10%.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	114	46	68	Birth-rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population, 11.04.
	Illegitimate...	2	1	1	
Still Births	Legitimate ...	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 Total Births, 16.94 Rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population, 0.19.
	Illegitimate...	0	0	0	
Deaths.....		Total	M.	F.	Death-rate per 1000
		173	96	77	Estimated Resident Population, 16.47.



Percentage of Total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions  
—25.43.

Birth Rate (England and Wales)—14.9 per 1000 population

Still Birth Rate                   ,,                   0.60                   ,,

Death Rate                         ,,                   12.4                   ,,

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.

	Deaths.	Total	Rate per 1000 (live & still) Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .....	0	.....	0
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes...	1	.....	8.47
Total.....	1	.....	8.47

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate .....Total 5. Males 1. Females 4.

Illegitimate .....Total 0. Males 0. Females 0.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live  
births:—

Legitimate 43, Illegitimate 0, All Infants 43.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—

England and Wales .....	58
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	0
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	0
,, Cancer (all ages) .....	21
,, Heart Disease (all ages) .....	25
,, Influenza .....	8
,, Suicide .....	0

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act for part of the district.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is principally carried out by three District Nurses, two attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution and one to the Mytholmroyd and District Nursing Institution. These Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Their work is highly appreciated, and their services are always much in demand.

The West Riding County Council provide Nurses for the home treatment of Infectious cases where there is no hospital accommodation for such cases.

These District Nursing Institutions are managed very successfully by local Committees and are supported principally by voluntary contributions. The Institutions receive a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity service. They have no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The three District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

The local authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in these arrangements during the year.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Auto-genous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same. The services of the laboratory are much availed of by the local practitioners in this district.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and immunising serum are supplied to any medical practitioner requiring them for use in their practice. Immunisations against diphtheria are carried out at local School centres or by doctors engaged in private practice, free of charge. The cost of such treatment is met by the County Council Public Health Authorities.



## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

**Adoptive Acts.**

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890—The whole.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 — The whole.

Do. do. 1907—Nearly all.

Private Street Works Act, 1892—No.

Public Health Act, 1925—The whole.

**Bye-Laws and Regulations in force in District:—**

Subject.	Date of Approval.
Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	None Approved.
Scavenging .....	„ „
Prevention of Nuisances .....	„ „
Common Lodging Houses .....	„ „
New Streets and Buildings.....	April 26, 1928.
Alteration of Buildings .....	None Approved.
Slaughter-Houses .....	„ „
Baths and Wash-Houses .....	„ „
Houses let in Lodgings .....	„ „
Cemeteries .....	„ „
Mortuaries.....	„ „
Offensive Trades .....	„ „
Tents, Vans, and Sheds .....	„ „
Smoke Abatement.....	August 25, 1932.

Any Bye-laws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1925—No.

Any Bye-laws made under Section 68 of the Housing Act, 1925—No.

**HOSPITALS.**

There are no Hospitals in the Urban District, but those available for use by the inhabitants of the area are as follows:—

		BEDS.	
General Medical	} ROYAL HALIFAX INFIRMARY	M.	F.
General Surgical		97	70
Children	„	43	
Maternity	„	20	
Venereal Diseases	„	Included in above figures.	
Orthopædic	„	„	
Ear, Nose and Throat	„	„	

The HALIFAX GENERAL HOSPITAL, which is a Municipal Hospital having 405 beds, and being fully equipped in all departments. It takes patients from the area originally bounded by the Halifax Poor Law Union (population approximately 190,000). During the past year 40 patients were admitted from our district, of which 16 were pregnancy cases (chiefly abnormal), and the rest a variety of medical and surgical cases. During the year a block of 19 single private wards has been added to the hospital for the nursing of Medical and Surgical cases. These have been well occupied and greatly appreciated, and patients from outside the Borough of Halifax are treated at the inclusive rate of £3 13s. 6d. per week. (For this information I am indebted to Mr. H. I. Deitch, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (the Medical Superintendent)).

Tuberculosis ...The Sanatoria under the administration of the West Riding County Council.

Chronic Sick...STANSFIELD VIEW HOSPITAL, 31 Male Beds and 31 Female Beds.

Mental.....Under County Council Administration.

Mental Deficiency—Under County Council Administration.

Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia...St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum...Ditto, by arrangement with the County Council.

Fevers .....FIELDEN HOSPITAL, Todmorden.  
(See below for particulars).

Smallpox...SOURHALL HOSPITAL, Todmorden, 34 Beds.

The Fielden and Sourhall Hospitals are managed respectively by the Joint Hospital Committees, and the Hebden Royd Urban District Council is one of the local authorities of each Committee, the finances of the Committees being met by precept.

Both these Hospitals are situated well out in the country about 4 and 7 miles away, on high ground, well away from other buildings.

The Fielden Hospital has 50 beds, and is open to receive patients suffering from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia and Erysipelas. Cases of Measles can now be admitted under special circumstances. In my opinion it would be very advantageous if the Hospital could also admit children suffering from Whooping Cough and

Chickenpox, when isolation in many cases might be considered not only advisable but essential in combating the spread of these highly infectious diseases. The Hospital is now under the direct supervision of the Medical Officer of Health of Todmorden Borough.

The Joint Smallpox Hospital at Sourhall has 34 beds. There was no case admitted during the year.

The Royal Halifax Infirmary is purely a voluntary institution, and is very well supported by the inhabitants of this district.

Institutional provision is provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children, at the Union Hospital (Stansfield View, Todmorden), and the General Hospital, Halifax.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in your area.

There was no change in the above services during the year.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an Ambulance jointly owned by Hebden Royd Urban Council, and Todmorden Rural Council. Both these Ambulances are of the modern motor type, and with regard to the Accident Ambulance, patients are called upon to pay a nominal amount on each occasion when the same is used. The Ambulance services in this area are quite adequate.

There was no change during the year.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established at both Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd. An Afternoon Clinic is held at both centres each Wednesday for mothers and babies, under the supervision of a doctor and nurses. These Clinics are well attended, showing a considerably increased attendance in recent years. Morning School



Clinics are held twice weekly at Hebden Bridge Centre, under the supervision of the Health Nurse. Ante-natal Clinics are held bi-monthly at Hebden Bridge, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor. They are held on the second and last Friday of each month at 2 p.m., and are very well attended. At Mytholmroyd the ante-natal clinic is held on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The main water supply of Hebden Royd is obtained in bulk from the Halifax Corporation, the supply being from moorlands. The supply was extended during the year by 35 yards of 3-inch pipes at Slater Avenue. It is filtered prior to distribution. The supply was found satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year. In addition to this supply a considerable number of premises are supplied with water from private sources, the origin of these being from springs. Six chemical analyses were made from private supplies with fairly satisfactory results. Sixteen bacteriological examinations were made from private supplies: 9 were good, 6 fairly good, and 7 were bad. None of the supplies were closed, but improvements have been made in several cases.

**Rivers and Streams.** — Permanent warning notices against depositing rubbish in the rivers are fixed at various places where the district adjoins the rivers.

**Drainage and Sewerage.** — The method of sewage disposal is partly on the combined system and partly on the separate system. The arrangements for disposal of drainage and sewage prove to be adequate. There was no extension of the sewers during 1937. There are 429 houses not connected to the sewers.

**Closet Accommodation.**—There are still 311 pail or tub closets, and 10 privies with covered middens. There are 3,323 water closets, 13 waste-water closets, and 2 Elson

chemical closets. The number of additional water closets provided for old property in 1937 was 18. There were 46 water closets, 3 tub closets and 2 Elson closets constructed in 1937 for new houses. There were 16 privies reconstructed as tub closets during 1937, and 5 tub closets converted to water carriage system.

**Public Cleansing.**—See Sanitary Inspector's report.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

### Smoke Abatement:—

Number of Smoke Observations taken .....	17
Number of Cautions as a result of such observations...	4

Swimming Baths and Pools—There are none in this area.

### Eradication of bed-bugs:—

1. (a) Council Houses.....Infested—None.  
Disinfested—None.
- (b) Other Houses .....Infested—None found.  
Disinfested—None.
2. Method of Disinfesting—None yet adopted.
3. Methods employed of cleansing tenants' belongings  
Before removal to Council houses—None employed.
4. Work of Disinfestation would be carried out if  
necessary by the Local Authority.
5. The measures taken by way of supervision or educa-  
tion of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infesta-  
tion after cleaning—None employed.

Shops Act, 1934—Sections 10 and 13 (3).

Number of Visits paid under the Act during 1937—6.  
Unsatisfactory conditions found—3.

Exemption granted by Council on ground of restricted  
accommodation.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections Made.	General Condition.	Legal Pro- ceedings.
Common Lodging Houses	1 ..	1 ..	2 ..	Satisfactory	None
Houses let in Lodgings	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	—	—
Canal Boats .....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	—	—
Knackers' Yards .....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	—	—
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	—	—
Offensive Trades .....	3 ..	3 ..	7 ..	Satisfactory	None
(Tripe Boiling).					

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

## OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Open-air or enclosed Swimming Baths would be a great acquisition to the health of the inhabitants of this area, and I am pleased to say that this matter is now receiving the attention of the Council. At present young people have to visit adjoining towns for this invaluable exercise; or, worse still, bathe in the mill dams. Considering the stagnancy of the water in these, I am of the opinion that they are definitely unhealthy and should not be used for bathing purposes.

**Schools.**—I am pleased to report favourably on the sanitary condition of the various schools in the district. The responsibility for the general health of the children rests with the County School Medical Officer, Dr. Potts, and the Medical Inspectors acting under him. The children are examined regularly, with the result that where physical defects are discovered subsequent action is taken, with consequent good results. A good percentage of school-going children were immunised against Diphtheria at specially-held Clinics.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby the children can either be immunised free of charge at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.



**Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.**—There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Number of New Houses erected during the year 1937:—

(a) By the Local Authority .....	16
(b) By private enterprise .....	23
	<hr/>
	39

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts .....155
- (b) Number of Inspections made .....236
- (2) (a) Number of Dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....124
- (b) Number of Inspections made .....203
- (3) (No. of) Dwellinghouses needing further action 150
- (a) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 9
- (b) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....141

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... 10

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ..... 61

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

- (a) By Owners ..... 16  
 (b) By Local Authority, in default of owners ..... 0

**B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—**

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 29

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

- (a) By Owners ..... 21  
 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... 0

**c & d. Proceedings under Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—**

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... 2

(2) Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... 0

(3) Number of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 6

(4) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 1

**Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.**

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 8

2. Number of families dwelling therein ..... 8

3. Number of persons dwelling therein ..... 48½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 0

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... 24

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases... 134½

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....None
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

There were no prosecutions for (a) Food and Drugs, (b) Unsound Food, or (c) re Slaughter-houses.

**Adulteration, etc.**—The West Riding County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, but your Sanitary Inspector takes samples of Milk for examination.

**Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**—Chemical analyses are carried out by Mr. Richardson, of Bradford, and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Hall, Wakefield.

**Nutrition.**—Dissemination of knowledge. No action taken.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was an epidemic of Influenza in January, eight deaths occurring from it. During the first five months of the year Measles were prevalent among the school-going children. I did not deem it advisable to close any of the schools: the epidemic was not of a serious nature: no death occurred. No local action was taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. There were four cases of Scarlet Fever during the year. No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. Diphtheria immunisation clinics were held at both Welfare Centres for the immunisation of children not already inoculated.

There were no cases of Anthrax, Psittacosis, epidemic Jaundice, or Undulant Fever.



Arrangements have been made for the proper nursing of measles in the home, by an agreement with the West Riding County Council, who have promised to provide nurses in the event of an epidemic.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made.

There were no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. The total number of Primary Vaccinations performed in the district for the year was 9.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted To hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox .....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	4	4	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0	0	0
Pneumonia .....	8	1	3
Erysipelas .....	5	0	0
Dysentery .....	0	0	0

#### Age Periods.

Scarlet Fever—1 at 5 years, 2 at 10, 1 at 20.

Puerperal Fever—1 at 20 years.

Pneumonia—1 at 5 years, 3 at 35, 2 at 45, 2 at 65 or over.

Erysipelas—3 at 45, 2 at 65 or over.

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.				
	At Home. In Hospital.				
	0 1	0	0	0	0

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...
1 .. ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	..	...
5 .. ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
15 .....	...	1	...	...	..	1	...	...
20 .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
25 .....	1	1	..	...	1	...	...	...
35 .....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
45 .....	1	...	..	..	2	1	..	...
55 .. ..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	..	.	...	...
Totals ..	3	2	1	3	3	2	0	0

There were 5 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year 1937, and all of these cases were previously notified to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF  
TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action taken under this heading.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient servant,

**Francis Joseph Dowdall, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1937

## Sanitary District—Hebden Royd Urban.

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.

Cases removed to Hospital.

—	Smallpox	
4	Scarlet Fever	
—	Diphtheria, including Mem. Croup	
—	Typhoid	Enteric Fever
—	Paratyphoid	
8	Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	
1	Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia*	
—	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
—	Acute Poliomyelitis	
—	Acute Polio-Encephalitis	
—	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	
—	Typhus Relapsing Fever Continued Fever†	
—	Dysentery	
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
5	Erysipelas	
5	Respiratory Tuberculosis (New cases only).	
4	Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New cases only).	
—	Contracted in this Country	Malaria
—	Contracted Abroad	
—	Induced in Institutions‡	
X	Chickenpox	
X	Measles (excluding German Measles)	
X	Whooping Cough	
—	Other Diseases (please specify)	
—	Smallpox	
4	Scarlet Fever	
—	Diphtheria	
—	Enteric Fever	
2	Other Diseases (please specify)	
	1 Pneumonia	
	1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum	

**Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.**—Under these headings include only the number of primary cases notified; notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

**Chickenpox, Measles, and Whooping Cough.**—Please state if any of these diseases were made compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1937, and if so, during what period. If any of these diseases were not compulsorily notifiable, but were known to be prevalent during 1937, please put a "X" in the appropriate column in above table.

**\* Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, cases of Puerperal Fever became on and after the 1st October, 1937, notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia; the total number of notifications for the whole of 1937, whether of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia, should be included under the above heading.

**† Continued Fever.**—Not notifiable on and after 1st October, 1937.

**‡** Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

(Signed) F. J. DOWDALL, Medical Officer of Health.



**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937 for the Urban District of Hebden Royd, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.**

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecu- tions (4)
Factories ..... (Including Factory Laundries)	24 ...	0 ...	0
Workshops ..... (Including Workshop Laundries)	5 ...	1 ...	0
Workplaces ..... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0 ...	0 ...	0
Total.....	29 ...	1 ...	0

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—\**

Particulars. (1)	Found (2)	Number of Defects.				No. of Prosecu- tions. (5)
		Remedied. (3)	Referred to H M Inspector (4)			
Want of Cleanliness .....	6	6	0	0	0	0
Want of Ventilation .....	1	1	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Nuisances .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary } Insufficient .....	5	3	0	0	0	0
accommo- } unsuitable or defective ....	3	3	0	0	0	0
dation. } not separate for sexes.....	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—*

Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s. 101) .....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
†Other offences .....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
Total.....	15 ..	13 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0

†Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.

\* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

## OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES.

## SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances.	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc. ....			
Cleaning and Washing ....			
Household linen ....			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ....			
Curtains and furniture hangings ..			
Furniture and upholstery ....			
Electro-plate ....			
File-making ....			
Brass and brass articles ....			
Fur pulling ....			
Cables and chains ....			
Anchors and grapnels ....			
Cart gear ....			
Locks, latches and keys ....			
Umbrellas, etc. ....			
Artificial flowers ....			
Nets, other than wire nets ....			
Tents ....			
Sacks ....			
Racquet and tennis balls ....			
Paper etc. boxes, paper bags ....			
Brush making ....			
Pea picking ....			
Feather sorting ....			
Carding etc. of buttons, etc. ....			
Stuffed toys ....			
Basket making ....			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ....			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ....			
Textile weaving.....			
Lampshades ....			
Total.....	None.	None.	None

Francis Joseph Dowdall, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Hebden Royd Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Year ending December 31st, 1937.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council.

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my first annual report as Sanitary Inspector to the Hebden Royd Urban District, in which you will find a brief review of the work of this Department, and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your district during the year 1937.

The year has been a very busy one, as the amalgamation of the Hebden Bridge and the Mytholmroyd Urban Districts caused a lot of work and some inconvenience, until I became conversant with the various conditions which applied in the combined district.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

#### **Water Supply.**

Source of Supply.—Halifax Corporation and a few private supplies.

By whom distributed—The Halifax Corporation supply is distributed by the Hebden Royd Urban District Council.

Number of houses on public supply?—2,794.

Any extension of supply during the year?—35 yards on 3" main at Slater Avenue.



Has supply been satisfactory?—Yes.

(a) In quality—Yes. (b) In quantity—Yes.

Any examinations made during the year (a) Chemical  
6 Result—Fairly satisfactory. (b) Bacteriological 16.  
Result—9 good, 6 fairly good, 7 bad.

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so where?  
—None closed, but improvements have been made in several cases.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

There have been no extensions to the sewers nor the Sewage Disposal Works during the year 1937.

There are 429 houses not connected to the sewers.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

Permanent notices have been fixed at various places in the District adjoining the rivers, and handbills occasionally distributed where it has been considered that some such warning was necessary. I think that this action has resulted in some improvement in the amount of rubbish deposited in the rivers.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year there have been 16 privies connected to tub closets, and 5 tub closets converted to water closets; 18 additional water closets, 1 tub closet and 2 Elson chemical closets have been provided for old property, and 46 water closets and 3 tub closets provided for new or reconditioned houses.

	1937.
Number of water closets .....	3323
Number of tub closets .....	311
Number of waste water closets .....	13
Number of Elson chemical closets ...	2
Number of Privy middens .....	10

### **Public Cleansing.**

(a) Dry ashes by horse and cart.

(b) Nightsoil collections are carried out chiefly during the night by the Council's workmen, and portions of the outlying districts are let by contract to farmers for the removal and disposal of the same.

(c) The dry house refuse is deposited on the Council's tips, where controlled tipping is in force.

3191			Loads of refuse have been carted to Calder Holmes Tip
144	:	,,	Eaves Tip.
792	,,	,,	Elphaborough Hall Tip.
396	,,	,,	Caldene Tip.
152	,,	,,	Holderness Tip.
28	,,	,,	Hand Royd Delph Tip.

There has been a three-monthly collection of rubbish from farms and other outlying property and approximately 25 loads have been dealt with.

(d) A small portion of nightsoil is buried on the tips, and the rest is discharged into the sewers, with the exception of a small amount which goes to the farmers.

(e) The method of cleansing cesspools is by the diaphragm pump, worked by hand.

(f) The contents of cesspools are generally disposed of to farmers and spread on to the land.

## Sanitary Inspections of Area.

(a) Total number of inspections .....	4744
Alterations and repairs to house and work in progress .....	529
Scavenging and Tips .....	76
Inspection under Public Health or Housing Acts...	236
Inspections re Overcrowded cases .....	9
Infectious Diseases .....	13
Smoke Inspections .....	17
Factory and Workshop Inspections .....	29
Slaughterhouse Inspections .....	368
Closet conversions and additions .....	23
Tripe Works .....	7
Complaints received and inspections for Nuisances	136
Meat and Food inspections .....	2862
Drains Inspections .....	73
Bakehouses .....	70
Inspections of Water Supplies and Sample-taking	68
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	189
Shops Act .....	6
Milk Samples for sediment test .....	25
Lodging Houses .....	2
Miscellaneous Visits .....	6

b) Legal Notices served under Public Health Acts ...	0
Complied with .....	0
Letters or Informal Notices .....	43
Complied with .....	42
(c) Summary of Sanitary Improvements effected under Public Health or Housing Acts:—	
Drains cleansed or reconstructed .....	120
Privies connected to tub closets .....	16
Tub closets converted to water closets .....	5
Offensive accumulations.....	15
Repairs to roofs, eaves, spouting, etc. ....	60
Damp wall, floors, etc. ....	131
Defective sink waste or new sinks .....	59
Defective yard paving .....	19
Repairs to chimneys or fireplaces .....	7
Defective pointing, plastering, etc. ....	60
Additional light and ventilation .....	68
Unsatisfactory water supplies .....	6
Dangerous Stairs .....	21
Defective Bedroom Floors .....	3

## Shops.

There have been 6 inspections made, and in 3 cases it was found that the conditions did not comply with the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. An application for exemption on the grounds of restricted accommodation was submitted in each case and certificates of exemption granted by the Council.

## Smoke Abatement.

There have been 17 smoke observations taken, each of 30 minutes' duration, and in 4 cases there were excessive emissions of black smoke. In these cases letters were forwarded to the responsible parties, calling upon them to remedy the nuisance.

## Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths etc. in this area.

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1.	(a)	Council houses—	Infested	0
			Disinfested	0
	(b)	Other houses —	Infested	0
			Disinfested	0



2. The method employed for treating infested houses is by cleansing, spraying, stoving and disinfecting powder.
3. No methods have been employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.
4. No one has been employed for disinfestation work, apart from the Council's workmen.

## Section D. Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.
  1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....155
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...236
  2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations .....124
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...203
  3. Number of dwellinghouses needing further action .....150
    - (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 9
    - (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (3) (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....141
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.
 

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... —

No. where informal notices have been issued 10

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

## A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... 61
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ..... 16
  - (a) By owners ..... 16
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners... —

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 29
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ..... 21
  - (a) By owners ..... 21
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners... —

## C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of representations etc. made in respect of dwellinghouses unfit for habitation ..... 28
- (2) No. of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 6
- (3) No. of Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 1
  - Owners proposal accepted ..... 19

## D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... 2
  - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... 0

## 4. Unhealthy Areas.

Have any areas been declared Clearance Areas during the year 1937? If so, please give full particulars as to such, including situation, number of houses, population, and action taken relative thereto.

	No. of Houses		No. of Occupants		Date when confirmed
Hippens End Clearance Area,					
Mytholmroyd ... ..	3	..	5	..	Jan. 21, 1938
Hall Gate Clearance Area,					
Mytholmroyd ... ..	4	..	8	..	Jan. 21, 1938
Pall Mall Clearance Area,					
Mytholmroyd ... ..	26	..	83	..	Not yet confirmed.
Bankfoot Clearance Area,					
Hebden Bridge ... ..	3	..	7	..	Not yet confirmed.

## 5. Number of New Houses erected during 1937.

(a) By the Local Authority .....	16
(b) By private enterprise .....	23
	<hr/>
Total .....	49

## 6. Housing Conditions.

(1) Total No. of Houses in the District .....	3779
(2) No. of working-class houses included in the above .....	3534

(3) General observations as to housing conditions, overcrowding, and shortage of houses.

The cases of overcrowding have to a large extent been abated during the year.

(4) Any special activity in house building? If so, where?—No.

(5) Any housing scheme projected by Local Authority? If so, please give particulars.

The Council are building 18 houses on the Nest Lane Housing Site, and they are considering the question of providing further houses on this Estate



- (6) Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936?—None.

7. Town Planning.

- (1) Is the Council a member of any Regional Town Planning Committee? If so, which? ..... No.
- (2) Is a Town Planning Scheme in force for
- (a) The whole of the District ..... No.
- (b) Part of the District ..... No.
- (3) Have Council during 1937 passed a Resolution deciding to prepare a Town Planning Scheme? If so, does it relate to:—
- (a) Whole District?—No.
- (b) Part of District?—No.

8. Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.

Thomas Feather, Sanitary Inspector, Council Offices, Mytholmroyd.

9. Has any action been taken to improve the housing conditions of tuberculous families in your District, either by way of building new or special houses, or the granting of special facilities for such families to be housed? If so, please state action taken ..... No.

10. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV., Overcrowding.

- (a) 1. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 8
2. No. of families dwelling therein ..... 8
3. No. of persons dwelling therein ..... 48½
- (b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 0
- (c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... 24
2. No. of persons concerned in such cases ...134½
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..... Not aware of any.

## Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### Milk Supply.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922?

(a) For Retailers—Yes.

(b) For Cowkeepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes.

Have any retailers been removed from the Register?—Yes. There has been one removed from the register owing to the condition of the cowsheds not being satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

	No. of Licences in force in area for:	Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically:		
		Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory.	Total
(a) Production of “ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk	—	—	—	—
(b) Production of “ Accredited ” Milk	4	These are examined by the County Council Inspector.		
(c) In respect of Pasteurising Plants	—	—	—	—

No. of Milk Samples taken by Officers of Local Authority for analysis under the Food & Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.—None.

No. found adulterated .. ... No. of prosecutions .....

No. of samples of ordinary milk taken by officers of local authority for:—

(a) Methylene blue test—None.

(b) Presence of tuberculosis—None.

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test?—Yes. 25.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1937?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—43. No. registered—43.

Total No. of Cowsheds—63. Total No. of Milk Cows—450.

Total No. of Cowsheds inspected during the year—63.

Total No. of Cowshed inspections—189.

No. of Wholesale Traders registered—3. No. of Retail Sellers registered—51.

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk.

Structural alterations have been carried out at several farms and three more have become licensed as Producers of “Accredited” Milk.

### Meat Inspection.

Any public abattoir in district?—No.

Total number of private slaughterhouses—9, made up of 9 registered and — licensed.

Number unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position or in other respects—None.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) .....	713	237	47	2232	749
Number inspected .....	509	165	32	1594	562

### All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcases condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	3	3	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					

### Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcases condemned .....	9	4	2	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	13	8	1	—	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	4.3%	7.2%	9.3%	0	4.9%



**Bakehouses.**

Number of Bakehouse in the district .....	24
Number of Inspections made .....	70

In a few cases the attention of the occupiers has been called to the whitewashing being overdue, and in each case the matter has received due attention.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and the Surveyor, for the assistance rendered to me in the discharge of my duties.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

**Thomas Feather**, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.A.S.,

Sanitary Inspector.







